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Letter dated 30 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose herewith the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in March 2009 (see annex). This assessment was prepared under my responsibility, following consultation with the other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdurrahman M. **Shalgham**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

09-32205 (E) 200809

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Annex to the letter dated 30 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (March 2009)

Introduction

This assessment of the work of the Security Council during the Libyan presidency in the month of March 2009 was prepared under the supervision and responsibility of Abdurrahman Mohamed Shalgham, Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations. The Libyan presidency of the Council, assumed for the second time and coinciding with Libyan chairmanship of the African Union, focused on effective maintenance of international peace and security through a strategic relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations, particularly the African Union.

The monthly programme of work was adopted in the first consultations of the whole, held on 3 March. The President briefed the press on the programme upon its distribution to Council members. The programme was made available on the United Nations website, and regularly published in the United Nations *Journal*.

Under this programme, and while taking into account developments and the views of its members, the Council dealt with issues in Africa (Guinea-Bissau, Sudan, Central African Republic, Chad, the Central African Republic and the subregion, Liberia and Somalia), in the Middle East and Asia (Lebanon, Afghanistan, the situation in the Middle East including the Palestinian question, and Sri Lanka), and in Europe (Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina). In addition to its regular activities, the Council dealt with general issues including peace and security in Africa and non-proliferation, travelled on mission to Haiti, and participated in a retreat with the Secretary-General.

The Council dealt with the above-mentioned issues in more than 9 consultations of the whole, 12 meetings, and one informal interactive discussion. This culminated in the adoption of two resolutions, the issuance of two presidential statements, and three statements to the press delivered by the President.

Africa

Guinea-Bissau

On 3 March, the Council held consultations of the whole, to consider the situation in Guinea-Bissau.

The Deputy Director of the Africa II Division of the Department of Political Affairs, Sam Ibok, briefed the Council on the killing of the President and the Chief of the General Staff in Guinea-Bissau on 1 and 2 March 2009.

Following consultations, the Council held its 6089th meeting, and the President was authorized to make a statement strongly condemning the assassinations and calling for those responsible to be brought to justice (S/PRST/2009/2). Furthermore, Council members urged all parties in Guinea-Bissau

to exercise restraint, maintain stability, and respect the rule of law and the democratic process, and called on the international community to assist in preserving the constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau and in supporting peacebuilding efforts there.

Sudan

On 6 March, the Council held consultations of the whole to address the item concerning the Sudan.

The President briefed the Council members on the letter dated 6 March 2009 he had received from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Libyan Mission and Representative of the Chairman of the African Union (S/2009/144). The letter transmitted for circulation a decision adopted on 5 March 2009 by the African Union Peace and Security Council.

The Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Catherine Bragg, who described the humanitarian developments in Darfur following the expulsion of relief groups, and urged the Government of the Sudan to reverse its decision.

On 10 March, the Council, in consultations of the whole, considered the Sudan sanctions Committee. The Chairman of the Committee, Ambassador Thomas Mayr-Harting (Austria), briefed the Council on the implementation of the Committee's mandate specified in resolution 1591 (2005).

On 20 March, the Council held its 6096th meeting to consider the item entitled "Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan".

The Council heard a briefing by the Director of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Rashid Khalikov. He expressed concern about the plight of civilians in Darfur, and again urged the Government of the Sudan to reverse its decision and respect its commitments. He stressed the need to find a way to decrease tensions and ensure the timely and sustainable provision of protection and humanitarian assistance, based on humanitarian principles, neutrality and impartiality.

The Council heard a statement by the representative of the Sudan.

Statements were also made by Council members, the President, speaking in his national capacity, and the representative of the Czech Republic (on behalf of the European Union).

On 26 March, the Council held consultations of the whole, and the African Union-United Nations Chief Mediator for Darfur, Djibril Bassolé, in his first briefing, updated Council members on the Darfur political process. The Council also heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, John Holmes, who reported on the work of the United Nations Government of the Sudan assessment mission.

Central African Republic

On 10 March, the Council held its 6091st meeting to consider the situation in the Central African Republic, having before it a letter dated 3 March 2009 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council (S/2009/128).

The Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic, François Lonseny Fall. He emphasized that the framework for lasting peace, agreed upon following the inclusive political dialogue in Bangui in December 2008, remained on track, despite a recent wave of rebel attacks.

The Chairperson of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, Ambassador Jan Grauls (Belgium), also briefed the Council, emphasizing that the dialogue's recommendations were being implemented and the Commission's Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding would soon be finalized.

The Council then heard a statement by the representative of the Central African Republic, who emphasized the urgent need for an integrated United Nations office in his country.

Following the meeting, the Council held consultations of the whole and discussed the Secretary-General's proposal to establish a United Nations integrated peacebuilding office in the Central African Republic.

Chad, the Central African Republic and the subregion

On 17 March, the Council held consultations of the whole to consider the situation in Chad, the Central African Republic and the subregion.

The Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, who updated the Council on the implementation of resolution 1861 (2009), and the transfer of authority on 15 March from the European Union mission (EUFOR) to the military component of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT).

In accordance with the understanding reached during consultations, the President delivered a statement to the press, welcoming the transfer of authority, and taking note of the completion of the training of the Détachement intégré de sécurité, and its role in protecting civilians affected by the Darfur crisis. Council members commended the European Union for the successful deployment of EUFOR, its support for United Nations activities, and its contributions to the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance, and welcomed the contributions made by United Nations Members to MINURCAT. They reiterated support to efforts carried out, particularly in the framework of the Dakar Contact Group co-chaired by the Congo and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. They reiterated the demand that armed groups implement the Sirte and Libreville agreements of 2007 and 2008, and encouraged the authorities and political stakeholders in Chad and the Central African Republic to continue to pursue their efforts of national dialogue in the framework of the N'Djamena Agreement of 2007 and of the conclusions of the inclusive political dialogue held in Bangui in 2008.

Liberia

On 19 March, the Council held consultations of the whole, and heard a briefing by the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Liberia, Ellen Margrethe Løj, on the eighteenth report of the Secretary-General on the work of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) (S/2009/86). She underlined achievements made in meeting the key benchmarks for the drawdown phase, in spite

of significant challenges such as the fragile security situation, and the inadequate capacity of rule-of-law institutions. The members concurred on the preliminary recommendations in the Secretary-General's report to maintain the troop levels in the current mandate of UNMIL pending the report of a technical assessment mission to be led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

Somalia

On 20 March, the Council held its 6095th meeting to consider the situation in Somalia. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia (S/2009/132) and the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 1846 (2008) (S/2009/146).

The Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah who detailed the implementation of the Djibouti Agreement, and emphasized the need for a new paradigm, based on the linkage between governance, security and development. While exhorting the international naval presence as a show of solidarity, the Special Representative defined piracy as a business, linked to the State's failure on land, and to criminal activities.

The Council heard a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, Mohamed Abdullahi Omaar. The Minister underlined the recent progress made in the political process even if some actors still refused dialogue, and affirmed that the defeat of piracy required the restoration of the rule of law. Turning to the security and peacekeeping strategy, he pointed out that this was based on the twin pillars of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and considered the pledging conference to be held on 22 April as crucial for providing resources.

The Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Ramtane Lamamra stressed that AMISOM worked closely with the Government, and welcomed the Council's intention to consider a United Nations operation as a follow-on.

Statements were made by Council members, the President, speaking in his national capacity, and the representatives of the Czech Republic (on behalf of the European Union), Norway and Malaysia. A statement was also made by Samir Hosni, on behalf of the League of Arab States.

In a statement to the press delivered by the President, Council members commended AMISOM for its contribution, called upon the international community to provide additional resources, and condemned attacks against it. They welcomed progress in the Djibouti process, and commended the President of Somalia for his efforts to reach out to parties outside the process. Furthermore Council members commended the humanitarian efforts made, and encouraged the international community to extend financial and technical support to the Government. Council members however expressed grave concern at insecurity in some parts of the country. They also expressed concern about the piracy off the coast of Somalia, and commended efforts to fight against piracy, while reiterating the need to address its root causes on the mainland.

Middle East and Asia

Lebanon

On 1 March, Council members took note of the commencement of the functioning of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon at The Hague, in accordance with resolution 1757 (2007), as set out in the letter from the Secretary-General to the President (S/2008/824).

On 3 March, following consultations of the whole, the President read out a statement to the press, in which Council members welcomed the commencement of the functioning of the Tribunal as an important step to bring to justice those responsible for the assassination of Prime Minister Hariri and to end impunity, in accordance with the statute of the Tribunal. Council members commended the International Independent Investigation Commission for its work and the Secretary-General for his efforts on the implementation of resolution 1757 (2007), and welcomed the United Nations commitment to ensuring that the Tribunal would achieve its mandate in an effective manner. Furthermore they reiterated their support for the Tribunal and recalled resolution 1852 (2008), which underlined the importance of the continuation of the full cooperation of Member States with the Office of the Prosecutor, in accordance with resolution 1757 (2007).

On 10 March, the Council held consultations of the whole to address the Secretary-General's ninth report on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) (S/2009/119). The United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Michael Williams, briefed the Council on the Secretary-General's report, and updated the Council on recent developments. Council members also heard an update from the Director of the Asia and Middle East Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, who briefed the Council on the work of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

Afghanistan

On 19 March, the Council held its 6094th meeting to consider the situation in Afghanistan, having before it the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (S/2009/135).

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Kai Eide introduced the report of the Secretary-General and updated the Council on the situation in Afghanistan. He described positive developments, including increased Afghan Government capacity, plans for police reform, and agricultural strategy, but stressed that turning those developments into reality would depend on international support. He urged the international community to support efforts to bolster the National Police, promote agriculture, and support the private sector to combat corruption, the funding of insurgents and food insecurity, among other long-standing problems. The Special Representative noted that security had continued to deteriorate, and described the main political challenge as the holding of free and fair presidential elections in August 2009. He concluded that international assistance efforts must build a sense of Afghan ownership in order to succeed.

Statements were made by Council members, the President, speaking in his national capacity, and the representatives of Afghanistan, Canada, the Czech

Republic (on behalf of the European Union), Norway, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, India, Australia, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan.

On 23 March the Council resumed its consideration of the item at its 6098th meeting.

The President drew attention to a draft resolution submitted by Japan (S/2009/152), which was adopted unanimously as resolution 1868 (2009), whereby the Council extended the mandate of UNAMA by one year, and provided for UNAMA and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to continue to lead international civilian efforts, in accordance with the priorities laid out in resolution 1806 (2008). It also condemned attacks on civilians and international forces, and the use by the Taliban and other extremist groups of civilians as human shields and of children as soldiers. It further called for efforts to ensure the credibility, safety and security of the elections in Afghanistan in 2009, recognized the key role of UNAMA in supporting such a process, and called for adherence to the commitments made at the Paris Conference.

Following the adoption of the resolution, the representative of Costa Rica expressed his regret over the weakening of the language through the failure in the operative part explicitly to address Costa Rica's concern over the increase in civilian casualties in Afghanistan, while realizing that insurgents bore prime responsibility for such casualties.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 25 March, the Council held its 6100th meeting to consider the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question.

The Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe. He began the briefing by stating: "Two months after unilateral ceasefires were declared in Gaza, we face a worrying situation of impasse and uncertainty. Despite international engagement and support, very little concrete progress has been made on key issues outlined in Security Council resolution 1860 (2009)". In conclusion he stressed: "It is important that the Quartet and the international community act with unity of purpose to help stabilize Gaza and reinvigorate the peace process. We need to have both Israeli and Palestinian Governments that are clearly committed to the two-State solution. We need a continuation of negotiations, the implementation of commitments on the ground and a strategy for de-escalating tensions and addressing the urgent humanitarian needs in Gaza".

Turning to Lebanon, he said that the killing on 23 March by a roadside bomb of the Deputy Representative in Lebanon of the Palestine Liberation Organization, had interrupted the prevailing relative calm in the country.

Following the briefing, the Council heard statements by the Permanent Observer of Palestine and the Permanent Representative of Israel.

Statements were made by Council members, the President, in his national capacity, and the representatives of Egypt and Lebanon.

Upon the resumption of the meeting, the Council heard statements by the representatives of Cuba (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), the Syrian Arab Republic, the Czech Republic (on behalf of the European Union), Brazil, Morocco,

Qatar and Bangladesh. The Council then heard statements by the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Paul Badji, and the representatives of Indonesia, Ecuador, Malaysia, Algeria, Mauritania, South Africa, Norway, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nicaragua, Jordan, Australia, the Republic of Korea, Mali, Pakistan and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Sri Lanka

On 26 March, the Council held an informal interactive discussion on Sri Lanka, in order to have an exchange of views on the humanitarian situation and security in that country.

The Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs on the humanitarian situation resulting from conflict between Government forces and Tamil rebels in northern Sri Lanka. The Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka then spoke, followed by Council members and the President.

Europe

Kosovo

On 23 March, the Council held its 6097th meeting to consider the item entitled "Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)", having before it the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) (S/2009/149).

The Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMIK, Lamberto Zannier, who said he considered the past four months as having been dynamic for Kosovo and UNMIK, with significant challenges and milestones. He stressed that the situation remained substantially stable in spite of the potential for volatility. He further stated that the European Union rule of law mission in Kosovo (EULEX) had assumed full operational responsibility under the overall authority, and within the framework, of the United Nations.

The Council heard statements by the President of Serbia, Boris Tadic, and Skender Hyseni (on behalf of Kosovo).

Statements were made by Council members and the President, in his national capacity, followed by an exchange of views between Messrs. Tadic and Hyseni.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

On 25 March, the Council held its 6099th meeting to consider the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The President drew attention to a draft resolution submitted by Austria, Croatia, France, Germany, Italy, the Russian Federation, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America (S/2009/154). The draft resolution was adopted unanimously as resolution 1869 (2009), by which the Council welcomed the designation by the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council, on 13 March, of Valentin Inzko as High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina. It reaffirmed the interpretative

authority of the High Representative on civilian implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, of 1995, and underlined his role in pursuing such implementation and in giving guidance to assist the parties in implementing the Agreement.

General issues

Peace and security in Africa

On 18 March, the Council held its 6092nd meeting to consider the item entitled "Peace and security in Africa". It had before it identical letters dated 24 December 2008 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council (S/2008/813).

After introductory statements by the President and the Secretary-General, the Chairman of the African Union-United Nations Panel on modalities for support to African Union peacekeeping operations, Romano Prodi (Italy), introduced the Panel's report (see S/2008/813). He stressed the responsibility of regional actors to address issues of peace and security in their own regions, and emphasized that peace in Africa could not be achieved through military force alone, and that all Member States must be committed to the process. He stressed the need for a "shared vision", based on long-term partnerships underpinned by credible institutional capabilities requiring resources and contributions, while ownership must belong to Africa.

The Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, speaking on behalf of the African Union, emphasized that peacekeeping in Africa is a shared responsibility requiring boldness, a heightened level of realization, harmonization of efforts and cohesiveness.

Statements were made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa, Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, and Council members.

The Council also heard statements by the Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, Edouard Aho-Glele, and the representatives of Cuba (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Brazil, the Czech Republic (on behalf of the European Union), Italy, Egypt, Canada, the Congo, Algeria, Kenya, Norway, Nigeria, Benin, Argentina, Australia and Bangladesh.

In a statement read out by the President (S/PRST/2009/3), Council members noted with interest the report of the African Union-United Nations Panel, and requested the Secretary-General to submit, no later than 18 September 2009, a report on, inter alia, ways to provide support for the African Union in operations authorized by the United Nations, and an assessment of the Panel's recommendations, in particular those on financing, and on the establishment of a joint African Union-United Nations team to examine how to implement those recommendations. Furthermore the Council emphasized the need to improve the capacity of the African Union, to develop strategic United Nations partnerships, and to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing of the regional organizations.

Non-proliferation (Islamic Republic of Iran)

On 10 March, the Council held its 6090th meeting to consider non-proliferation (Islamic Republic of Iran).

The Council heard a briefing by the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), Yukio Takasu (Japan), on the Committee's report covering the period from 11 December 2008 to 10 March 2009. The Chairman reported that the Committee had received a number of reports and exchanged letters and notifications with States concerning their implementation of the sanctions, and informed the Council of the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency on its programme during the technical cooperation cycle 2009-2011. He also noted that the Committee had received a letter from a Member State seeking guidance with respect to a vessel (the *Monchegorsk*) found to be carrying arms-related materiel from the Islamic Republic of Iran in violation of Council resolution 1747 (2007).

Statements were made by the representatives of the United States, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the United Kingdom and France.

Security Council mission to Haiti

On 19 March, the Council held its 6093rd meeting to consider the item entitled "Security Council mission" and hear a briefing by the head of the Security Council mission to Haiti.

Ambassador Jorge Urbina (Costa Rica), in his capacity as head of the Council mission, briefed the Council on the fact-finding mission, organized from 11 to 14 March, to assess the implementation of Council resolutions, particularly resolution 1840 (2008). He stressed that the mission had assessed the country's situation at first hand at a time when there appeared to be an opportunity to ensure stability and sustainable development. Emphasizing the reform progress, he observed that Haiti continued to grapple with food insecurity and a fragile humanitarian situation, and observed that the authorities must promote a national consensus to ensure a firm foundation for socio-economic development.

In his statement, the representative of Haiti, Ambassador Léo Mérorès, expressed gratitude to the Council for the mission, and stressed that since 2005 the security situation had improved, although the economic and social situation remained fragile, particularly as a consequence of the four hurricanes in 2008. He reiterated Haiti's commitment to economic development and stressed the importance of the upcoming pledging conference in Washington.

Security Council retreat

The Council held its annual retreat on 20 and 21 March with the Secretary-General to consider the issue of peacekeeping.